



Energize Missouri Agriculture - **Energy Efficiency Cost-Share Grant Program**

Energy Center fact sheet

1/2010

In an effort to help farmers move toward more energy efficient and profitable operations, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center has developed a \$3 million energy efficiency cost-share grant program under *Energize Missouri Agriculture*.

What is this program?

The department is offering the energy efficiency cost-share grants to agricultural operations statewide for agricultural energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy equipment. The department's Energy Center modeled the reimbursement element of the grant program after the county soil and water conservation districts' cost-share program. Funding is provided by the Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

What does the program offer?

The program offers cost-share grants to farm operators, owners or renters. The energy efficiency cost-share grant program reimburses farmers up to 75 percent of the purchase cost of qualifying energy efficient equipment and systems, up to \$5,000 per applicant.

Some farms are divided into multiple tax units. Each individual tax unit that owns part of a farm unit is eligible for a cost-share grant, but the units must be owned by different individuals. A farm is defined as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold during the year.

What kinds of projects are eligible?

Items eligible for reimbursement include purchased energy efficient equipment and hardware, but do not include time and labor spent installing or operating the equipment. The Energy Center has identified equipment and systems that qualify for funding (*see Eligible Projects or Systems*); however, the department is also looking for new and innovative technologies that can be applied to agricultural energy efficiency.

What projects are not eligible?

Purchased equipment and hardware are eligible but not time and labor. Transfer of ownership of equipment before five years will require Energy Center approval, or reimbursement to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Equipment purchased prior to signing a contract is not eligible. In addition to projects list above, the Department of Natural Resources employees and their immediate families are not eligible to receive the cost-share grants. Public entities are also not eligible.

Eligible Projects or Systems

Solar Powered Systems

Solar powered water pumps. Eligible projects include multiple pumps/systems. Eligible equipment includes pumps, controllers, photovoltaics or PV panels, water pipe, batteries and water storage tanks. Labor is not included. Panel watts are the total rated panel watts for all panels.

Solar powered fencers. Eligible projects include multiple solar-powered chargers for electric fences. Labor and fence material is not included. Panel watts are the total rated panel watts for all panels.

Insulated Waterers

Eligible projects include multiple insulated tanks and frost-free waterers for cows, sheep and horses.

Global Positioning System, or GPS, Guidance System

Eligible projects include receiver and auto-track systems for tractors, combines and sprayers. Projects do not include handheld systems for recreation or automobiles.

Irrigation Improvements

Eligible system improvements include multiple flow meters, controllers for pulse irrigation, multiple solenoid valves for each zone, electrical wire from the valves to the controller, multiple drip emitters for drip irrigation, multiple irrigation nozzles and PVC pipe to replace aluminum pipe. Tier III or Tier IV diesel engines are also eligible.

Dairy Facility Improvements

Eligible systems include variable frequency/variable speed drives for vacuum pumps, water-cooled plate coolers for milk pre-cooling, heat reclaimers for air compressors, scroll air compressors and high-volume, low-speed or HVLS cooling fans.

Swine Facility Improvements

Eligible systems include high-volume, low-speed or HVLS cooling fans.

Poultry Facility Improvements

Eligible systems include high-volume, low-speed or HVLS cooling fans.

Upgrade/New Grain Dryers

Eligible systems include both burner and fan retrofit for existing systems or total new systems.

Lighting Upgrades/Motion Sensors/Timers

Eligible projects include retrofit of entire lighting systems in an existing building. This includes fixtures, bulbs, timers and sensors. Purchase of replacement/individual light bulbs is not eligible.

Conservation Tillage Equipment

Eligible types of equipment include combine straw spreaders, planters, bedders, ridge-till cultivators, coulters, tool bars and drills. Tractors and combines are not included.

High Efficiency Electric Motors

Eligible equipment includes high-efficiency and National Electrical Manufacturers Association, or NEMA, Premium electric motors.

Biomass Furnaces/Boilers for Other than Poultry Houses

Poultry house biomass furnaces are covered under a separate Energy Center program. Eligible systems include furnaces that burn wood, wood pellets, corn and large bales of hay/straw for other than poultry house heating. Eligible systems include both air and water heat systems.

Other

Provide a short narrative describing your proposed project. Please include cost, estimated energy savings per year, documentation/calculations for estimate, payback in years and type of equipment you intend to purchase. Labor cost is not eligible.

How do I sign up?

Those interested in applying to the energy efficiency cost-share program may complete an application form located on the department's Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/EnergizeMissouriAgriculture.htm. An application form is also available at all local County Soil and Water District offices or by contacting the department's Energy Center at 573-526-1723. The approved paper form is the only hard copy that will be accepted. Please do not print out the electronic version for use as a hard copy submission. Application forms must be post marked and mailed to the department or sent electronically through the Web site by April 20, 2010.

Mail application forms to:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Energy Center
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Attn: Ag Cost-Share

How are the grant recipients selected?

A technical review panel will rank all applications using several factors, including energy saving potential and feasibility. The department will notify approved applicants shortly after the application close-out date. Grant recipients' are required to sign an agreement or contract with the department laying out the terms and conditions of the project. Purchases made before the agreement is signed do not qualify for reimbursement.

What are the terms and conditions grant recipients must follow?

When a project is selected, the grant recipient will be provided a contract to sign. As a provision of the contract, the grant recipient will need to certify they have read the Terms and Conditions that apply to the contract. Terms and Conditions will be included in the contract. The grant recipient can also obtain a copy from the department's Energy Center, or they can download a copy from the department's Web site. Terms and Conditions include but are not limited to a requirement to install the project equipment within one year from the date of signing the contract, method of payment, record keeping requirements, equipment use, equipment disposition, monitoring visits by the Department of Natural Resources' personnel and lobbying restrictions.

Projects will be required to comply with several federal directives including the National Environmental Policy Act (consideration of environmental impacts and possible Environmental Impact Statements), the National Historic Preservation Act (avoiding or minimizing adverse effects to heritage resources including land disturbance), and the Davis Bacon Act (requirement to pay prevailing wages). The contracts offered may require the recipients to provide additional information such as photos and maps to comply with these federal laws.

Each project section in the application form has an Additional Information block. In the Additional Information blocks for the various systems, applications are encouraged to provide information that may strengthen their request. For example, an applicant may want to explain their current situation and how the intended purchase will change that situation. The department would also like to know the potential use of the system. For example, feet of fence served with energizer. Applicants should provide as close a cost estimate as they can. If a project is selected this

estimate will determine the contract amount. Selected projects will be eligible for up to 75 percent of the cost with a cap of \$5,000 per tax unit. More information regarding the eligible projects, selection and notification process is available by contacting the department's Energy Center at 573-751-2254.

For More Information

The Agricultural Energy Efficiency Improvement Grant Program is funded from the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center will administer the *Energize Missouri Agriculture* grant funds. For more information on all *Energize Missouri* projects, visit the department's Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov/transform/energizemissouri.htm. For more information on the federal Recovery Act, visit www.recovery.gov. For more information on Missouri's transform initiatives, visit www.transform.mo.gov.

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